

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method of scheduling executions of programs on a plurality of computers comprising ~~the steps of~~, at a ~~scheduling~~ third computer:

(a) receiving a first notification from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;

(b) receiving a second notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from the operating system of the first computer;

(c) updating a master schedule in response to the first and the second notifications and based on the first and the second notifications, wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second computer; and

(d) requesting the first computer to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second program according to the updated master schedule.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein ~~step (c)~~ the updating further comprises indicating in the master schedule that the execution of the first program depends

on a condition; and ~~step (d)~~ the requesting further comprises requesting the first computer to execute the first program upon the occurrence of the condition.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein ~~step (e)~~ the updating further comprises indicating in the updated master schedule that an execution of the second program depends on an execution of the first program meeting a criterion; and ~~step (d)~~ the requesting comprises:

- (1) requesting the first computer to execute the first program;
- (2) receiving a result from the first computer, wherein the result is based on the execution of the first program; and
- (3) requesting the second computer to execute the second program if the result meets the criterion.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein ~~step (d)~~ the requesting further comprises:

- (1) monitoring the load of the first computer;
- (2) monitoring the load of the second computer; and
- (3) adjusting the updated master schedule based on the load of the first computer and the load of the second computer.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein ~~step (e)~~ the updating further comprises assigning a first priority to the first program and a second priority to the second program; and further comprising adjusting the updated master schedule based on the first priority and the second priority.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein ~~step (e)~~ the updating further comprises accepting at least one command from a user to define the updated master schedule.

33. (Currently Amended) A system for scheduling executions of programs on a plurality of computers comprising ~~[[of]]~~ a ~~scheduling~~ third computer networked to a first computer and a second computer, wherein the ~~scheduling~~ third computer comprises:

~~receiving~~ means for receiving a first notification from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;

~~receiving~~ means for receiving a second notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from the operating system of the first computer;

updating means for updating a master schedule in response to the first and the second notifications and based on the first and the second notifications, wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second computer; and

~~requesting~~ means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second program according to the updated master schedule.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the ~~updating~~ means for updating further comprises ~~indicating~~ means for indicating in the updated master schedule that the execution of the first program depends on a condition; and the ~~requesting~~ means for

requesting further comprises ~~requesting~~ means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program upon the occurrence of the condition.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the ~~updating~~ means for updating further comprises ~~indicating~~ means for indicating in the updated master schedule that an execution of the second program depends on an execution of the first program meeting a criterion; and the ~~requesting~~ means for requesting comprises:

~~requesting~~ means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program;

~~receiving~~ means for receiving a result from the first computer, wherein the result is based on the execution of the first program; and

~~requesting~~ means for requesting the second computer to execute the second program if the result meets the criterion.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the ~~requesting~~ means for requesting further comprises:

~~monitoring~~ means for monitoring the load of the first computer;

~~monitoring~~ means for monitoring the load of the second computer; and

~~adjusting~~ means for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the load of the first computer and the load of the second computer.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the ~~updating~~ means for updating further comprises ~~assigning~~ means for assigning a first priority to the first program and a second priority to the second program; and the ~~requesting~~ means for requesting further

comprises ~~adjusting~~ means for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the first priority and the second priority.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the ~~updating~~ means for updating further comprises ~~accepting~~ means for accepting at least one command from a user to define the updated master schedule.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a tangible computer useable storage having computer readable program code ~~means~~ embedded in the storage for causing an application program to execute on a ~~scheduling~~ third computer that schedules executions of programs on a plurality of computers comprising:

a first computer readable program code ~~means~~ for receiving a first notification from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;

a second computer readable program code ~~means~~ for receiving a second notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from the operating system of the first computer;

a third computer readable program code ~~means~~ for updating a master schedule in response to the first and the second notifications and based on the first and the second notifications, wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second computer; and

a fourth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for requesting the first computer to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second program according to the updated master schedule.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable program code ~~means~~ further comprises a fifth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for indicating in the updated master schedule that the execution of the first program depends on a condition; and the fourth computer readable program code ~~means~~ further comprises a sixth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for requesting the first computer to execute the first program upon the occurrence of the condition.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable program code ~~means~~ further comprises a fifth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for indicating in the updated master schedule that an execution of the second program depends on an execution of the first program meeting a criterion; and the fourth computer readable program code ~~means~~ further comprises:

a sixth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for requesting the first computer to execute the first program;

a seventh computer readable program code ~~means~~ for receiving a result from the first computer, wherein the result is based on the execution of the first program; and

an eighth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for requesting the second computer to execute the second program if the result meets the criterion.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 39, wherein the fourth computer readable program code ~~means~~ further comprises:

a fifth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for monitoring the load of the first computer;

a sixth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for monitoring the load of the second computer; and

a seventh computer readable program code ~~means~~ for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the load of the first computer and the load of the second computer.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable program code ~~means~~ further comprises a fifth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for assigning a first priority to the first program and a second priority to the second program; and the fourth computer readable program code ~~means~~ further comprises [[of]] a sixth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the first priority and the second priority.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable program code ~~means~~ further comprises of a fifth computer readable program code ~~means~~ for accepting at least one command from a user to define the updated master schedule.

45. (New) A computer program product comprising a tangible computer useable storage having computer readable program code embedded in the storage for causing an application

program to execute on a third computer that schedules executions of programs on a plurality of computers comprising:

a first computer readable program code, embedded in the tangible computer useable storage, for receiving a first notification from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;

a second computer readable program code, embedded in the tangible computer useable storage, for receiving a second notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from the operating system of the first computer;

a third computer readable program code, embedded in the tangible computer useable storage, for updating a master schedule in response to the first and the second notifications and based on the first and the second notifications, wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second computer; and

a fourth computer readable program code, embedded in the tangible computer useable storage, for requesting the first computer to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second program according to the updated master schedule.